

Wisconsin's Maple Syrup Production Down Slightly

Wisconsin's 2003 maple syrup production dipped 4 percent from 2002 to 76,000 gallons, maintaining the state's rank of 4th place in U.S. production. Sugar content of the sap was slightly higher than last year, requiring only 35 gallons of sap to produce one gallon of maple syrup, compared to 36 gallons required in 2002.

About 350 maple syrup producers responded during April and May to report production and price information. These producers received \$29.30 per gallon for their 2002 production, 10 cents more than a year earlier.

Twenty-six percent of the producers who responded felt that temperatures this season were ideal for sap flow. This was a large change in opinion from the 2002 season, when 49 percent of producers reported ideal weather. Fifty-three percent of this year's producers indicated that temperatures were too warm for sap flow, and only 21 percent reported temperatures too cold. For favorable sap flow, warm days and cold nights are desired.

The estimated number of taps set during the 2003 season was 400,000, a decrease of 40,000 from the 2002 season. The average yield per tap for Wisconsin's producers was 0.190 gallons, up from 0.180 gallons last year.

The average beginning date for Wisconsin's maple season was March 16, with a closing date of April 13, 2003. This year's 28-day season was 2 days shorter than last year and consisted of several runs. While many producers in some areas of the state indicated a poor season, a large number of producers were very pleased with their crop saying it's the best in many years.

Producers in the state reported 54 percent of the maple crop was medium in color, 36 percent was dark, and 10 percent was light. The percent of syrup in the light and dark categories changed greatly from the previous year. In 2002, only 8 percent of the syrup was dark colored, and 39 percent was light. The remaining 53 percent was of medium color.

Nationally, maple syrup production for 2003 totaled 1.24 million gallons, down 11 percent from last year's production of 1.39 million gallons. The U.S. price per gallon for 2002 averaged \$27.60, down \$1.00.

Nationwide, sugar content of the sap was higher than the previous year, as approximately 41 gallons of sap were required to produce a gallon of syrup. This is in contrast to 45 gallons of sap needed to produce one gallon of syrup in 2002, but unchanged from 2001. Most syrup was dark and medium colored, with only a small quantity of light syrup produced.

Maple Syrup

State	Production		Average price per gallon		Value of production	
	2002	2003	2001	2002	2001	2002
	1,000 gallons		Dollars		1,000 dollars	
WISCONSIN	79	76	29.20	29.30	1,986	2,315
Connecticut	8	8	45.70	47.20	411	378
Maine	230	265	18.70	19.40	3,740	4,460
Massachusetts	45	35	40.60	39.50	1,380	1,778
Michigan	66	59	29.70	32.50	1,782	2,145
New Hampshire	75	57	40.00	41.10	1,800	3,083
New York	260	210	29.50	26.30	5,694	6,838
Ohio	75	51	31.30	32.30	3,005	2,423
Pennsylvania	55	48	25.30	26.70	1,746	1,469
Vermont	500	430	30.80	27.00	8,470	13,500
United States	1,393	1,239	28.60	27.60	30,014	38,389

Source: Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service.

Maple Syrup: Price by Type of Sales, and Size of Container, by States, 2002

Type and state	Gallons	1/2 gal.	Quarts	Pints	1/2 pints
	Dollars				
Retail					
WISCONSIN	27.80	15.50	8.50	5.30	3.30
Connecticut	37.50	21.20	11.80	7.30	4.60
Maine	34.00	18.60	10.50	6.50	4.20
Massachusetts	35.00	20.40	12.30	7.90	5.20
Michigan	31.00	17.50	10.10	6.00	4.10
New Hampshire	33.30	19.00	11.30	6.80	4.10
New York	29.70	17.70	9.90	6.50	4.20
Ohio	29.80	17.80	10.20	6.30	4.10
Pennsylvania	29.10	16.50	9.70	5.70	3.60
Vermont	31.40	18.20	11.30	7.10	4.50
Wholesale					
WISCONSIN	26.40	14.50	7.90	4.50	2.80
Connecticut	30.30	16.80	9.20	5.20	3.40
Maine	28.20	16.80	8.40	4.80	3.00
Massachusetts	25.80	16.50	9.10	5.70	3.80
Michigan	25.00	15.30	8.70	4.90	3.40
New Hampshire	28.30	17.20	10.40	5.60	3.50
New York	26.90	14.80	8.00	4.70	2.90
Ohio	24.10	14.30	9.20	5.60	3.20
Pennsylvania	27.00	16.00	8.70	4.90	3.20
Vermont	25.00	16.20	9.30	5.40	3.40

1/Data not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations. Source: Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service.

